

REFERENCES

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NOTEWORTHY PLANT RECORDS FROM CENTRAL AND DEEP SOUTHERN TEXAS—Recent ecological surveys of various natural areas of Texas, including state parks, have revealed peripheral populations of two plant species.

Aristolochia serpentaria L. Virginia snakeroot is one of several plant species which have a main geographic range in the southeastern United States with disjunct populations occurring in mesic canyon microhabitats of the Texas Hill Country (although not mentioned by Palmer, 1920, J. Arn. Arbo. 1: 233–239). Central Texas populations are known from Bandera, Edwards, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Real and San Saba Counties (Pfeiffer, Ann. Mo. Bot. Garden 53: 115–196, 1970). Recently, I have observed two mature specimens in McKinney Falls State Bank, Travis County. Plants are growing out of adjacent cracks with associated travertine deposits in McKown Formation (Upper Cretaceous: Gulf Series: Austin Group). Most rocks of Austin Group are chalk or marl which form actively foliating cliffs. The McKown Formation is a hard limestone or heavily calcareous sandstone formed from beaches fringing the Pilot Knob atoll. The two observed specimens were 25 cm apart on exposure of McKown approximately 500 meters in length. Plants were located in area of greatest available vertical rock; elsewhere, colluvial deposits or undercut shelter reduced available vertical surfaces. Area of plant occurrence receives seepage water from soil on top of McKown ledge in greater amounts and for longer time periods than remaining cliff-face. Exposure of plant micro-habitat is approximately W30°N while rest of cliff exposure faces more westward (counter clockwise to W10°S). Other cracks in cliff have been colonized by *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, *Rhus toxicodendron* and *Callicarpa americana*. Dominant elements of colluvial slope woodland which shades solar radiation from west are *Quercus texana*, *Viburnum rufidulum*, *Cornus drummondii* and *R. toxicodendron*.

Specimens from McKinney Falls are believed to represent easternmost individuals of central Texas population adapted to hard limestone cliffs; nearest populations of deep-soil adapted form is 250 km eastward (Pfeiffer, op. cit.). The name *hastata* Nutt. has been applied to forms with narrow sagittate leaves which are "especially common in the south" (Correll and Johnston, *Manual of the Vascular plants of Texas*, 1970: 508). While leaf morphology agrees with above description. Ahles (J. Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc.

75: 130, 1959) has declared *hastata* Nutt. invalid because it was preceded by *hastata* HBK, a Mexican species. Ahles (op. cit.) declared *nashii* Kearney as the basonym for *hastata* Nutt. The name *nashii* was applied to Florida specimens which possessed "... petiole pubescent, 1–3 mm long, standing at right angles to the internode below ..." (Kearney, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 21: 482–487, 1894). However, Travis County specimens possess slightly pubescent petioles which are 3.5–13.0 mm and are not at right angles to respective internode. Further study will be required to elucidate the valid taxonomic treatment for the Central Texas population of *A. serpentaria*.

Pisonia aculeata L. Devil's claw pisonia is distributed in Mexico, West Indies, Florida, and deep southern Texas. Texas specimens have generally been highly scattered individual plants in subtropical thorn woodlands associated with resacas in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties (Correll and Johnston op. cit.; Vines, *Trees, shrubs and woody vines of the southwest*, 1960). Recently, a large stand of this scandent shrub has been located within Resaca de la Palma State Park Site in Cameron County. *P. aculeata* occupies a crescent-shaped area above a cutbank of Resaca de la Palma for a distance of 220 meters and a width of 17 meters from edge of water. Area is a sprawling thicket of growing branches over collapsed dead *Pisonia* branches and supportive trees. Dominant trees in this area which support *Pisonia* are *Pithecellobium flexicaule*, *Ehretia anacua*, *Ulmus crassifolia* and *Bumelia celastrina*. Other shrubs present include *Solanum erianthum*, *Randia rhagocarpa*, *Porlieria angustifolia* and *Amyris madrensis*. Other vines present in immediate area are *Mikania scandens* and *Smilax bona-nox*.

Largest branches of *Pisonia* are dead central trunks with DBH as large as 11.0 cm and soil-level circumference of 15.6 cm. These dead trunks may have been killed by severe freeze of 9–12 January 1962 (19°F in Brownsville) or the major drought of 1950–1957 with subsequent sucker shoots having attained DBH of up to 2.1 cm. Large dead trunks may represent growth since previous major freeze of 13 February 1899 (12°F in Brownsville). Numerous small plants are present in areas not covered by thicket of tangled vines. Soil is deep silty clay loam (Laredo Soil) developed from remnant levees of the Rio Grande River.

Voucher specimens are: *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Neck, 1036 (SMU), *Pisonia aculeata*, Neck, 1135, 1136 (SMU).—Raymond W. Neck, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.